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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6874

BILL NUMBER: HB 1313

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 14, 2008

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Inmate Employment Counseling and Searches.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Turner

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Department of Correction (DOC) to allow offenders to have Internet access to search for employment within 90 days before an offender's release from DOC. It also requires DOC to train at least one employee at each correctional facility to supervise offender Internet access for employment searches and provide employment counseling. DOC would be permitted to adopt rules to approve Internet web sites that offenders may access.

Effective Date: July 1, 2008.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill would increase costs for the Department of Correction in the following areas:

- One-time expenses to install Internet-compatible equipment in secure areas;
- Software programming to restrict offenders to certain websites;
- Either additional staff to oversee offenders or reassigning staff to supervise offenders, particularly in facilities where offenders are in high-level security settings.

DOC could have three staffing issues to deal with in accommodating offenders who are being released:

- First, facilities with large offender populations, such as Miami, Plainfield, Putnamville, and Westville will have 30 or more offenders released on average each week of the year.
- Second, staff in facilities such as the State Prison, Miami, and Wabash Valley could experience more problems because more of the offenders being released from these facilities are in the higher security levels.
- Finally, DOC contracts with county sheriffs and outside groups to house some offenders. DOC may need to renegotiate contracts with these providers to assure that offenders being released from these

facilities will be given Internet access.

Background: Currently, only the Plainfield Reentry Facility permits offenders supervised access to the Internet to research employment prospects. The facility houses offenders who are to be released from DOC back into Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Madison, Marion, Morgan, Putnam, or Shelby Counties.

Under current DOC rules, no offenders in any facility other than Plainfield Reentry has access to the Internet. Each facility has a prerelease reentry program which runs for 4 to 13 weeks prior to the offender's release.

In CY 2006, 16,379 offenders were released from DOC facilities at an average number of 315 offenders per day. The following shows the potential number of releases each week based on 2006 information.

Number of Offenders Released from DOC Facilities in CY 2006		
Facility	Annual Releases	Average Releases per Week
Branchville	916	18
Chain of Lakes	166	3
Correctional Industrial	609	12
County Jails	1,007	19
Edinburgh	394	8
Evansville Work Release	82	2
Henryville	210	4
Indianapolis Men's Work Release	274	5
Indianapolis Women's Work Release	154	3
Liberty Hall	217	4
Madison	301	6
Marion Co Work Release	28	1
Medearyville	148	3
Miami	1,544	30
New Castle	616	12
Pendleton	472	9
Plainfield	1,845	35
Plainfield Reentry	81	2
Putnamville	2,201	42
Reception Diagnostic	104	2
Rockville	1,043	20
South Bend Work Release	206	4
State Prison	413	8
Wabash	553	11
Westville	2,264	44
Women's Prison	531	10
Grand Total	<u>16,379</u>	<u>315</u>

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Correction.

Local Agencies Affected: County sheriffs.

Information Sources: Department of Correction.

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